

*"It Is Time For The President To Rediscover His Passion For Transparency In Government"*

**WASHINGTON, DC** - U.S. Congressman Mike Pence made the following statement expressing his disappointment regarding President Obama's shift in position on federal media shield legislation:

**"Our recent presidential election promised change in many areas of our national life, including the public's right to know. After years of opposition from the White House for the Free Flow of Information Act, it was most encouraging to hear both the Republican and Democratic nominees endorse the enactment of a federal media shield.**

**"While campaigning for office, President Obama affirmed his support for the First Amendment freedom of the press by endorsing a federal media shield bill. But in recent days, it has become apparent that President Obama has shifted his position and is no longer supporting the robust shield for journalists provided by this legislation.**

**"Earlier this year, the House of Representatives unanimously passed the Free Flow of Information Act with a balancing test that maintains strong protections for the government in cases concerning the nation's security. The Senate bill currently under consideration has similar protections.**

**"As an author and champion of the Free Flow of Information Act for more than four years, I am troubled by reports that the White House is now demanding deep revisions to this legislation as it moves through the Senate. These changes would eviscerate the qualified privilege for journalists to protect confidential sources in national security cases by eliminating the public-interest balancing test. The President cosponsored and supported such a public-interest balancing test for national security cases during his time in the United States Senate.**

**"The question now is whether President Obama will fulfill his campaign promise and support a federal media shield with a measured balancing test, or if he will continue to shift away from greater government transparency and accountability by pushing for a**

**federal media shield bill that is so weakened as to be inconsequential.**

**"It is time for the President to rediscover his passion for transparency in government and use the power of the Oval Office to support, rather than block, strong media shield legislation that will ensure the First Amendment freedom of the press for generations to come."**